

July 2, 1968

Dr. Torbjorn Caspersson  
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Medical Nobel Institute  
Karolinska Institutet  
Stockholm 60, Sweden

Dear Torbjorn:

I was very sorry to have missed you when you did call in at my office.

To answer your letter of June 20, let me say first of all that I am very much interested both in the activities of SIPRI and in the specific problem of microbial detection. I am rather skeptical that detection devices will play very much of a role in biological warfare until they can cope with the identification of isolated virus particles. However, with the rapid increase of expertise in nucleic acid replication systems, this may not be completely out of the question within a few years.

Nevertheless, I am very happy to have a chance to meet Mr. Lundin. I believe that Elliott Levinthal already has met him. Elliott is out of town this month, but I have no hesitation in replying on behalf of both of us that we will be very happy to see Mr. Lundin while he is here in September. However, as I have already written to Lundin, the end of week of September 9th is somewhat problematical for me, and while I think I could still be fairly sure of being here, it would be very much more convenient if he could schedule some day, any day, earlier in that week.

Let me in fact make a further counter suggestion that may not be totally irrelevant to the purposes of his travel: that is, that he enroll in the course on computation for biological research; the details are enclosed. Please however, disregard any of the deadlines that are mentioned there. The reason for this is that I assume that his travel expense is already covered in any case, and he would not require a stipend from the UNESCO sponsors.

Let me also press upon you a couple of other writings that bear on SIPRI activities. I would enjoy it very much if we could have a leisurely opportunity some time to discuss these matters in greater detail. Until then,

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics

CASPERSSON